

**Method for Lowering Both Sequence Variation and Increase
of Base Line Effects in Diagnostic Hybridisation Assay, Assay for Performing
Such a Method and Probe for Use in the Assay**

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the use in a diagnostic hybridisation assay of
10 a probe or a molecular beacon probe for lowering: the effect of sequence variations
in a nucleic acid analyte, and/or the IBL effect due to the possible opening of the
stem-loop structure of a molecular beacons by way of (contaminants in the
amplification) enzymes, which assay comprises the steps of contacting a set of
primers and a sample containing the nucleic acid analyte to amplify the analyte and
15 detecting the amplified analyte or its complement by means of the probe, wherein
the probe or molecular beacon probe comprises one or more nucleotides and/or
nucleotide analogues that have an affinity increasing modification. The invention
also relates to such probe and molecular beacon probe and to a kit for performing a
diagnostic assay using such probe or molecular beacon probe.